



ASSEMBLYMEMBER NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

July 14, 2006

Hello Friends:

MY WEEK IN THE DISTRICT

I began the week by meeting with **Risto Rubio** to talk about fundraising efforts to construct a fence around the **Arvin Cemetery**. The reason for the fence is to prevent the theft of the cemetery's American eagle, which was recently stolen. I am confident that if the community comes together in support of this worthy cause, we will be able to construct the fence and keep these disgraceful acts from happening again.

I also traveled to the **City of Arvin**, where I met with **Mayor Tim Tarver** and **Police Chief Tommy Tunson**. During each meeting, I updated **Mayor Tarver** and **Chief Tunson** about my legislative work in **Sacramento** and I also provided them with a breakdown of the recently signed state budget. These meetings were fantastic because they afforded me the chance to receive an update on the **City of Arvin**. I look forward to my next visit!

Earlier in the week, I also sat down with **Pat Norris, Director of the Kern County Housing Authority**. We really focused in on discussing foster care programs, specifically the availability of resources for the foster care program the county operates for aging-out youth in the system. I informed **Director Norris** that I would examine the possibility of securing additional funding for facility expansion and development from the **California Department of Housing and Community Development**.

To read more about the **Kern County Housing Authority** or the **Department of Housing and Community Development**, please visit their web sites <http://www.kernha.org/> and www.hcd.ca.gov/, respectively.

I also had the opportunity to spend some time with **Christian Printup, Director of Entertainment**, and **Mary Moon, Assistant Manager**, at the **Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino**. We had a great chat about a number of the **Palace's** upcoming activities and some of their future plans.

One of the most important activities in which I participated this week was a ride-along with the **Bakersfield Police Department**. Gang related incidents and shootings continue to dominate the law enforcement agenda in **Kern County**, and I really wanted to get a close, firsthand view of the situation, specifically the challenges that officers encounter in the field.

One important part of my job is really trying to step into the shoes of other people and gaining an appreciation for what they go through, and this served as a valuable experience in seeing exactly what the men and women of our law enforcement community confront on a daily basis.

I encourage everyone to visit the web site of the **Bakersfield Police Department** to learn more about the department and some of the projects on which it is working by following this link

<http://www.bakersfieldcity.us/police/>

I also had the chance to participate in a meeting of the **Kings County Family Violence & Courts Task Force**, held at the **Kings County Government Center**. This proved a very beneficial meeting, as those in attendance received updates presented by law enforcement and court officials, and non-profit organizations regarding domestic violence.

For my next meeting, I made my way over to the **Corcoran Station Apartments**, where I met with over 50 seniors. I was given the opportunity to take a tour of the housing complex and to have a great conversation with the seniors about **Medicare Part D** and **identity theft awareness issues**. I would like to particularly thank **Rita Moore**, the director of the complex, for making this visit possible.

I had the pleasure of meeting with **Ron Seaver**, the **Superintendent of Central Union School District** to take a tour of the **Stratford Family Resource Center (FRC)**. The **Stratford FRC** works hard to raise funds to provide youth activities and programs for **Stratford's** children and students.

This week I also presented a resolution to **Jan Ely**, who recently retired after 37 years of teaching in the communities of **Corcoran**, **Lemon Cove**, and **Tulare**. **Jan**, thank you for your inspiring commitment to education and for helping to foster the next generation of California's leaders. We are forever grateful for your efforts.

Another great event I attended this week was the regular, weekly meeting of the **Lemoore Rotary Club**, where I provided the membership with an update on the progress I am making in pursuing my legislative package and also on a number of budgetary issues.

The **Lemoore Rotary Club** is a fantastic organization, composed of local business and education leaders. If you would like to find out more about this terrific organization, please access their web site www.rotary5230.org

Also this week, **Ron Hoggard** invited me to attend the monthly meeting of the **South Valley City Managers**. This group includes managers from all the communities south of **Madera** and north of **Tehachapi**. Along with receiving an update from the association, I provided them with a legislative/budget briefing as well. I would also like to congratulate **Ron**, as he was named president of the association at this meeting. Congratulations, **Ron**!

Udi Barkai of **Aegis Medical Systems Inc.** also paid me a visit this week to discuss the mission and the goals of this health care organization.

Aegis is one of the largest drug treatment programs in the state. Currently, it serves over 5,000 persons per day in 26 facilities located in 12 counties. **Aegis** has two treatment facilities in **Kern County** including facilities in **Downtown Bakersfield** and the **City of Delano**.

To find additional information on **Aegis**, please check out their web site <http://www.aegismed.com/>

I would like to congratulate the **City of Delano** on their newest addition: **Robert F. Kennedy High School**. Toward the end of the week, I attended the groundbreaking for **Delano's newest high school**, named after the late **U.S. Senator, Robert F. Kennedy**.

This event was especially significant and unique in that this is the first high school in California to be named after **Senator Robert F. Kennedy**. Given the **Kennedy family's** storied history and the immense contributions they have made to the field of public service, I feel that it is both appropriate and long overdue that **California** has a school named after the late Senator Kennedy.

Once again, congratulations to **Delano** residents for working so hard to expand educational

opportunities to the children of their community.

I also met with **Ryan Bertao, Executive Director of the Kings County Farm Bureau**. We talked about a number of the legislative issues affecting the **Farm Bureau** and **Ryan** gave me an update of recent **Farm Bureau** happenings.

Javier Guzman and **Mike McCann** of **Proteus, Inc.** took some time to provide me with a briefing of their current projects, which include the issue areas of education, worker training and employment, farm-worker housing, youth services, mobile employment services, and levee maintenance.

Please take a look at their web site, www.proteusinc.org/, to learn more about this great organization.

Later during our meeting **Javier**, along with **Mary Jane Skjellerup, Venacio Gaona, and Jose Barraza** discussed with me another program in which he is involved: **Education by Example, Latino Legacy Project**. This project is set to inspire and empower **Latino Youth and families** to honor their cultural heritage and to play an active role in shaping their future by expressing their history, cultural perspectives and insights through the power of digital media. Students volunteer to create digital stories that record the commitment and sacrifice of men and women who made extraordinary contributions to community, and share their own thoughts and perspectives. The **Center for Multicultural Cooperation** has partnered with **Digital Clubhouse Network** and **Fresno Unified School District** to help **Central Valley Latino participants** tell their stories in the form of digital videos.

Also this week, I had the chance to meet with **Renee Ezelle** and **Jose Barraza**, of the **Center for Independent Living (CIL)**. We discussed services for persons with disabilities in **Kings County**, such as housing issues. **The CIL covers the following counties: Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Tulare Counties.**

Tonight, I will be attending a **National Rifle Association (NRA) dinner** at the **Fraternal Hall** in **Hanford**. I look forward to seeing my good friend **Don Connor, President of the Sportsman's Council of Central California** and a lot of other friends tonight.

HELPFUL LINKS

Operation Hero Miles

<http://www.heromiles.org/>

Care Packages for Soldiers

<http://anysoldier.com/>

County Information:

Fresno

<http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/portal/>

Kings

<http://www.countyofkings.com/>

Kern

<http://www.co.kern.ca.us/>

Tulare

<http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/>

City Information:

Coalinga

www.coalinga.com

Kingsburg

www.cityofkingsburg-ca.gov/

Corcoran

<http://www.cityofcorcoran.com/>

Huron

www.fresnocog.org/city1/city_of_huron.htm

Avenal

<http://www.avenalcalifornia.com/>

Hanford

<http://www.ci.hanford.ca.us/>

Lemoore

<http://www.lemoore.com/>

Arvin

<http://www.arvin.org/>

Bakersfield
<http://www.bakersfieldcity.us/>
McFarland
<http://www.mcfarlandcity.org/>
Wasco
<http://www.ci.wasco.ca.us/>

Delano
<http://www.delano-ca.org/default.htm>
Shafter
<http://www.shafter.com/>

NEED HOMEWORK HELP?

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and follow the simple setup instructions.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov.

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to:
<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov.

Bakersfield Office:

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Hanford Office:

321 N. Douty St.,
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Phone: (559) 585-7170
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Capitol Office:

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
Phone: (916) 319-2030
Fax: (916) 319-2130

Email: Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov

Web Site: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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